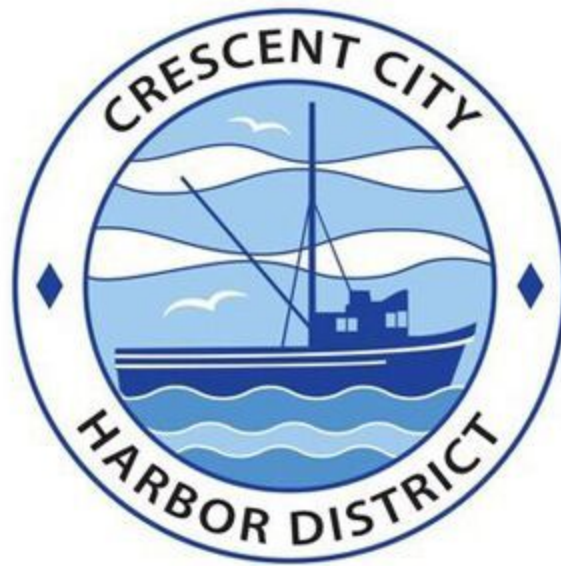


Harbor release raises more questions than answers

July 3, 2023



When will the Harbor fix the Fashion Blacksmith building?

What is the plan to dredge underneath the Fashion Blacksmith pier?

When will the harbor pay the judgement to Fashion Blacksmith?

These and other pressing questions were not clarified or definitively answered in the recent public statement from harbor commissioners.

The Crescent City Harbor District (CCHD) released its initial statement concerning the arbitration decision. Fashion Blacksmith was awarded nearly \$1.3 million. The lawsuit addressed the Harbor's failure to fix the roof and siding of the premises Fashion occupies, rebate of rent and the failure to dredge below the Fashion syncrolift, allowing ingress and egress for larger vessels needing repair within the inner harbor.

Arbitrators established a September 15 and October 31, 2023 deadline to mitigate the building and complete the dredging, respectively.

CCHD Harbormaster Tim Petrick reported the harbor will obtain the required permitting to dredge the area in front of Fashion Blacksmith "... as soon as possible which we (CCHD) hope to have completed in advance of the deadline set by the arbitration panel," according to Petrick. The release continues by stating the

CCHD has retained professional dredge permitting consultants and is actively engaged in the sampling, testing and permitting process as required by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Coastal Commission.

Permits from these agencies must be delivered to the harbor by October 31, 2023. No one disputes one immutable fact; dealing with government is an extremely tedious, arduous process, often times exceedingly slow. The process to dredge to appropriate depth is less than four months away.

The release did not address payment of the \$1.298 million judgement and the extensive attorneys fees and arbitration costs which add another \$600,000 up totaling \$1.950 million.

Repairs to the CCHD-owned Fashion premises which must be corrected by the end of Summer. Could extensions of these deadlines be requested? Possibly. Would those extensions be granted by the arbitration panel? Unknown. Penalties accrue at seven percent.

The Triplicate reached out to harbormaster Petrick for clarification and details on plans to satisfy this lawsuit.

The harbormaster did not return the Triplicate's request for an update.

The Triplicate also reached out to Pacific Affiliates of Eureka. Pacific principal Travis Schneider has a recent history of consulting for the CCHD on structural engineering and dredging. Travis Schneider did not respond to Triplicate messages.

The CCHD neither addressed the Fashion award nor provided the public with a proposed schedule to commence both arbitration panel mandates.

In the interim, CCHD invited the public to " join the conversation ", a July 12 meeting at the Ocean View Inn, 4:00-5:30PM inviting feedback on the proposed new Citizen's Dock. The Harbor is in process of receiving a \$970,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy for construction of a new citizens dock.